Excise.

(No. 35.)

SUBJECT No. 35.

Amendment of the Excise Regulation in certain respects.

Mr. B. Kasaviah, Chikmagalur Taluk and Mr. N. Nanjundiah, Chikmagalur Municipality.

Mr. M. Karnik Krishnamurti Rao.—We want the time-limit for tapping trees to be reduced to three months as formerly. The new time-limit of four months is a source of loss to owners of toddy trees as the contractor goes on tapping the tree all the time and it gets badly damaged and there cannot be a watch in all cases.

Second Member.—In British India the time allowed is one year.

Mr. Karnick Krishnamurti Rao.—There will be all the more over-tapping. To prevent this the time limit must be reduced. If trees are spoiled a damage charge of Rs. 5 per tree may be paid.

Reply of Government.—Government are not convinced of the necessity for any change. At any rate the present practice may continue for a couple of years.

Forest.

(No. 36 to 38.)

SUBJECT No. 36.

Grant of free timber and sites in assessed lands to encourage the building of healthy and convenient houses and cattle sheds.

Messrs. Halappa, Gurulingappa, Giriappa, and Raghavendrappa, Honnali Taluk.

Dewan.—Timber is getting more and more scarce. It may be got at concession rates but not free. These concession rates have not been enhanced.

Mr. Halappa.—The price of articles is going higher and higher and without concessions in the price of timber, we cannot have healthy cattle sheds.

Reply of Government.—About forest matters, the Kannada hand-book promised at the last Session has been printed. Raiyats can understand all forest matters from that book. If after studying the privileges enumerated in it the members have any complaints, they may make a representation to Government and necessary action will be taken.

SUBJECT No. 37.

Exclusion of beedi and *muthaga* leaves from the list of minor forest produce.

Mr. C. Rasoolkhan, Anjuman-E-Islamia, Chikmagalur, Messrs. Suryanaranappa and Hanumegowda, Sidlaghatta Taluk.

The Conservator of Forests.—On *muthaga* nothing is charged.

A Member.—A fee is being collected, as a matter of fact, in some places.

The Conservator of Forests.—If so it is a mistake.

Dewan.—We do not want to encourage smoking; what charge is being levied now cannot be removed.

Mr. Ananthiah.—Government may then issue licenses for collecting the leaves to individuals. It is a means of livelihood for gosha ladies. At present the right is sold by contract and individuals have to buy the leaves from contractors at high prices.

Dewan.—Beedi leaves must be taxed to discourage smoking. Government have passed orders recently and